

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chairman Joe Balyeat, on February 4, 2009 at 9 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Joe Balyeat, Chairman (R)
Sen. Verdell Jackson, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Linda Keim, Committee Secretary
Pat Murdo, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SJ 10, SB 192, SB 234, SB 150
1/28/2009 (SB 150 postponed to
2/6/09)

Executive Action: SB 192

HEARING ON SJ 10

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:05 Sen. Ron Erickson (D), SD 47, opened the hearing on SJ 10, Study options for state work comp coverage.

[EXHIBIT \(bus26a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:08:21 Bruce Spencer, Property Casualty Insurers, and
Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association
(AIA)

00:09:42 Robert Johnson, AFL-CIO

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:10:26 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division

00:10:45 Nancy Butler, Montana State Fund

00:10:59 Leah Tietz, Montana University System Workers
Compensation Program

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:11:23 Sen. Squires

00:14:27 Nancy Butler

00:14:48 Chairman Balyeat

Closing by Sponsor:

00:15:35 Sen. Erickson

HEARING ON SB 192

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:17:33 Sen. Ryan Zinke (R), SD 2, opened the hearing on SB 192, Small business work comp relief.

[EXHIBIT \(bus26a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus26a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:25:22 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:27:47 Nancy Butler, Montana State Fund

00:31:05 Bruce Spencer, Property Casualty Insurers and Auto
Dealers; also speaking for Jacqueline Lenmark, AIA
00:31:32 Jason Miller, United Brotherhood of Teamsters and
United Brotherhood of Auto Workers
00:32:12 Bob Worthington, Montana Self-Insurers Association
00:33:07 Rick Hill, Montana Building Industry Association
00:34:46 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau
00:35:28 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent
Business (NFIB)
00:36:12 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association
00:37:02 Robert Johnson, Montana AFL-CIO
00:37:49 Corey Swanson, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony:

00:39:31 Don Judge, Montana Injured Workers Resource Council

Informational Testimony:

00:41:55 Jerry Keck, Administrator, Employee Relations Division,
Department of Labor and Industry

EXHIBIT (bus26a04)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:46:47 Sen. Squires
00:52:27 Jerry Keck
00:52:41 Sen. Tropila
00:52:57 Nancy Butler
00:54:24 Sen. Tropila
00:54:34 Don Judge
00:55:31 Sen. Tropila
00:55:35 Jon Bennion
00:57:07 Chairman Balyeat
00:58:05 Pat Murdo
00:58:30 Chairman Balyeat
00:59:18 Jon Bennion

Closing by Sponsor:

01:00:17 Sen. Zinke

01:03:27 Recess
01:11:09 Resume

01:11:50 Chairman Balyeat

HEARING ON SB 234

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:12:39 Sen. Kim Gillan (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on SB 234, Insurance coverage for autism.

EXHIBIT (bus26a05)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:15:15 Laura Simonson, Self, Billings

01:20:38 Sen. John Sonju, HD 7

EXHIBIT (bus26a06)

01:22:51 Audrey Pierce-Seeley, Certified Family Support Specialist

01:27:51 Sherrie Petty, Self, Billings

EXHIBIT (bus26a07)

01:32:53 Belinda Andreozzi-DeVerniero

01:35:34 Dr. Cheryl Young, Self, Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst and Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education at Montana State University, Billings

EXHIBIT (bus26a08)

01:44:28 Lorri Unumb, Senior Policy Analyst and Counsel with Autism Speaks

EXHIBIT (bus26a09)

01:53:39 Charlie Cote

EXHIBIT (bus26a10)

01:57:24 Dr. Laura Nicholson, Billings

01:59:12 Ryann Halsey, Social Worker, Western Montana Health Center, Missoula

02:02:54 Susan Dow, Montana Disability Service Providers, Billings

02:03:14 Erica Schuppe, Occupational Therapist, Scottish Rite, Billings

02:05:40 Rebecca Sturdevant, Montana Nurses Association

EXHIBIT (bus26a11)

02:06:11 Rep. Julie French, HD 36

02:06:46 Joanne Ploskunak, Charlow

02:07:39 Will Cote, Ronan

02:08:45 Darcy McGovern, Self, Billings

02:09:12 Michael Jordan, Self, Hardin

02:11:10 Amy Grmoljez, Billings Clinic

02:11:49 Elaine Spino, Montana Speech and Hearing Association

Opponents' Testimony:

02:12:19 Robert Shepard, M.D., Medical Director, New West Health
Services, Family Practice Physician, Helena

EXHIBIT (bus26a12)

02:24:32 Susan Witte, Vice President and General Counsel for
Allegiance Benefit Plan Management

EXHIBIT (bus26a13)

02:29:09 Chelsea Fagen, Health Service Director, Montana Chamber
of Commerce

02:31:32 Dennis Lopach, Lawyer, Americas Health Insurance Plans
(AHIP)

02:33:57 Frank Cote, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT)

02:35:20 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

02:36:08 Bob Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, Montana Unified
School Trust

02:40:56 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent
Business

Informational Testimony:

02:41:25 Jeff Sturm, Development Disability Director for Montana

02:43:30 Christina Goe, State Auditors Office

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:45:49 Sen. Windy Boy

02:47:39 Jeff Sturm

02:47:56 Sen. Brown

02:49:22 Sen. Gillian

02:50:45 Chairman Balyeat

02:51:07 Sen. Brown

02:51:41 Frank Cote

02:52:50 Sen. Tropila

02:53:19 Lorri Unumb

02:57:26 Sen. Tropila

02:57:32 Dr. Shepard

02:59:18 Chairman Balyeat

02:59:25 Sen. Keane

02:59:52 Sen. Gillan

03:00:17 Sen. Steinbeisser

03:00:36 Laura Simonson

03:02:31 Chairman Balyeat

03:07:59 Sen. Gillan

03:08:55 Chairman Balyeat

03:09:58 Bob Robinson

03:10:56 Sen. Windy Boy
03:11:59 Lorri Unumb
03:12:48 Sen. Windy Boy
03:13:21 Sen. Gillam
03:14:26 Sen. Squires
03:16:15 Sen. Gillam

Closing by Sponsor:

03:17:26 Sen. Gillan
EXHIBIT (bus26a14)

03:19:47 Chairman Balyeat

Note: Due to the time, SB 150 was rescheduled to Friday,
February 6 at 9AM.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 192

03:20:22 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved **SB 192 DO PASS.**

03:20:31 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Brown moved **TO AMEND.** Motion carried
by unanimous voice vote of those present, 10-0. Sen.
Barkus and Sen. Peterson were not in the room.

03:23:45 Chairman Balyeat

Note: Chairman Balyeat asked for Executive Action on SB 192 in
order to add an amendment. He stated they don't want to
vote on SB 192 until the fiscal note is revised. He
explained that in order to insure the fiscal note was
written the way they wanted it to be, the amendment needed
to be added. He said that addition of the amendment makes
SB 192 essentially a new bill. Further action will be
taken on SB 192 when the revised fiscal note is received.

EXHIBIT (bus26a15) Pertains to SB 308 heard 2/3/09.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:25 P.M.

Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([bus26aad.pdf](#))